

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 HEW-04 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PC-01 /077 W  
-----074117 031356Z /41  
R 030840Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9405

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 6299

DEPT. PASS TO USICA, PEACE CORPS, AND AID FOR NE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MR.  
MAHMUD SUMA

1. SUMMARY: ON JULY 24, I MADE MY INITIAL CALL ON THE  
MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MR. MAHMUD SUMA. WE DISCUSSED  
THE MINISTRY'S EXPANSION PLANS AS WELL AS U.S. AID, PEACE  
CORPS AND ICA ACTIVITIES AND PLANS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON 24 JULY, ACCOMPANIED BY THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER/  
USICA, PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR AND AID DIRECTOR, I MADE MY  
INITIAL CALL ON THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MR. MAHMUD  
SUMA. MR. ABDUL QADIR ASHNA, PRESIDENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS  
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

3. AFTER EXCHANGING PLEASANTRIES, I TOLD THE MINISTER OF  
THE RECENT MEETINGS UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE NEWSOME AND I  
HAD WITH PRESIDENT ARAKI. I NOTED THAT THE MEETINGS HAD BEEN  
VERY CORDIAL AND THAT BOTH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS WERE DESIROUS  
OF ESTABLISHING FRIENDLY RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL  
RESPECT AND BENEFIT. I ALSO SAID THAT WE WERE INTERESTED  
IN ASSISTING THE DRA IN ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE WELL-  
BEING OF ITS RURAL POOR.

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4. THE MINISTER OUTLINED THE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS FACING  
THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND NOTED THE FAILURE OF THE DAOUD REGIME,  
AFTER AN INITIAL PROMISING START, TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS.  
HE DESCRIBED PLANS TO CREATE A SECOND UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN  
NANGARHAR--ADDING FACULTIES OF AGRICULTURE AND ENGINEERING,  
AND A TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE TO THE CURRENT MEDICAL FACULTY

THERE.

5. THE AID DIRECTOR THEN REVIEWED THE STATUS OF THE FOUR AID PROJECTS CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION (PRIMARY TEACHER TRAINING, RURAL WOMEN'S REISENCE, DEVELOPMENT RELATED RESEARCH, AND TECHNICAL MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT), NOTING THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE NOW PROGRESSING WELL ON ALL OF THESE EXCEPT TMD, WHERE THERE WERE STILL SOME UNRESOLVED ISSUES. THE MINISTER, AFTER EXPRESSING HIS APPRECIATION FOR OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE TMD PROJECT FROM HIS MINISTRY'S PERSPECTIVE. HE SAID THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING HAD MORE THAN DOUBLED THE ENROLLMENT OF THE FRESHMAN CLASS IN ONE YEAR IN LARGE MEASURE ON AN EXPECTATION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE OF SOME \$25 MILLION. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE LACK OF SUCCESS OF THIS EXPANSION, PARTICULARLY THE HIGH FAILURE RATE OF STUDENTS, WAS IN PART DUE TO THE FAILURE OF THE U.S. TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT PROPOSED AID PROJECT WAS SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN THIS INITIALLY DISCUSSED AMOUNT, SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD CONTINUE AT THE DEPUTY MINISTER LEVEL. THE AID DIRECTOR NEXT ASKED IF LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AT THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING WAS TO CONTINUE IN ENGLISH OR BE IN DARI, WHICH WOULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HENCEFORTH, ALL INSTRUCTION WOULD BE IN DARI, ALTHOUGH ENGLISH WOULD CONTINUE TO BE TAUGHT AND ENGLISH REFERENCE

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MATERIAL WOULD CONTINUE TO BE USED.

6. THE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR BRIEFLY REVIEWED THE WORK OF THE PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS AT KABUL UNIVERSITY AND RECALLED THAT THE MINISTER HIMSELF AND OTHER MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD INDICATED THAT A STUDY WAS TO BE MADE OF THE NEED FOR VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS FOR THE 1979 ACADEMIC YEAR. HE ALSO SAID THAT REQUEST FROM THE MINISTRY COULD STILL BE RECEIVED IF A DECISION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON, EVEN THOUGH THE DEADLINE FOR REQUESTS OF VOLUNTEERS DUE TO ARRIVE IN JANUARY 1979 HAD ALREADY PASSED. THE MINISTER DID NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION DIRECTLY BUT PROCEEDED TO DESCRIBE A PROBLEM, SUPPOSEDLY INVOLVING A VOLUNTEER PROFESSOR, WHICH HAD ARISEN AT ONE OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTIES. WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE MINISTER WAS REFERRING TO A MATTER CONCERNING A FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR AND NOT A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER, THE PUBLIC

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H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 HEW-04 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PC-01 /077 W  
-----074134 031355Z /41

R 030840Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9406

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 6299

DEPT PASS TO USICA, PEACE CORPS, AND AID FOR NE

AFFAIRS OFFICER/USICA INTERVENED TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION. THE PC DIRECTOR ADDED THAT HE HOPED ANY PROBLEM AT THE UNIVERSITY WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY REFERRED TO HIM SO IT COULD BE QUICKLY REVOLVED. THE MINISTER INDICATED HIS APPRECIATION BUT MADE NO FIRM STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY'S FUTURE NEEDS FOR VOLUNTEERS. FYI: DURING THE SAME WEEK, THE PC OFFICE RECEIVED A MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION REQUEST, APPROVED BY THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, FOR A TELEVISION INSTRUCTOR AT THE UNIVERSITY'S FACULTY OF LETTERS. THIS ACTION, TOGETHER WITH THE EXPLICIT STATEMENTS OF VARIOUS UNIVERSITY DEANS, SUGGESTS THAT THERE MAY BE CONTINUED INTEREST WITHIN THE MINISTRY FOR PCVS. END FYI. THE PC DIRECTOR NOTED THE MINISTRY'S PLANS TO EXPAND BOTH UNIVERSITY FACILITIES AT NANGARHAR AND THE COUNTRY'S TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, AND SAID THAT THE PC WAS READY TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE COLLABORATION IN THESE PROJECTS. THE MINISTER REPLIED THAT THE OFFER WAS APPRECIATED AND WOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

7. THE PAO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE FINE PROGRAM ARRANGED BY KABUL UNIVERSITY FOR THE AMERICAN STUDENTS CURRENTLY VISITING AFGHANISTAN UNDER UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA'S PROJECT AFGHANISTAN. THE MINISTER MENTIONED DIFFICULTIES WITH AN ABORTED AFAMEC PROJECT TO TAKE AFGHAN TV STUDENTS TO  
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INDIA AND THEIR AMERICAN PROFESSOR'S TALKING ABOUT ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS IN A MANNER UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS THOUGHT IMPROPER. THE PAO REGRETTED THAT DUE TO FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS, THE PROJECT COULD NOT BE REALIZED, AND SAID THAT WE EXPECTED AMERICAN FULBRIGHTERS TO AVOID DISCUSSIONS

IN CLASS OF INTERNAL MATTERS OF THE COUNTRY THAT WERE NOT  
THEIR CONCERN.  
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## Message Attributes

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Sheryl P. Walter  
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